

1-28. (CANCELED)

29. (NEW) An illumination device comprising:

a body member;

at least two sources of light aligned along a longitudinal axis of, and lying within, the body member;

at least one transparent region of the body member through which light from the at least one source of light passes upon energization of the at least one source of light; and

a plurality of closely packed, but non-adhering transparent optical particles lying within the body member and extending contiguously between each source of light and a side of the at least one transparent region which is directed towards an inside of the body member.

30. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 29, wherein each source of light is a light emitting solid state device and the optical particles are glass balls.

31. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 29, wherein the body member is a tube of glass forming the sole transparent region of the body member.

32. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 29, wherein the optical particles are of uniform size and shape.

33. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 29, wherein the optical particles vary in size over a spectrum of sizes.

34. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 33, wherein the optical particles are of similar shape.

35. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 29, wherein there are a plurality of sources of light and at least one of the plurality of sources of light differs in output color from at least one other of the plurality of sources of light.

36. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 29, wherein an interior of the body member not occupied by the at least one source of light or the optical particles is filled with a gas or vapor, which latter term includes air, maintained at a controlled pressure relative to ambient atmospheric pressure.

37. (NEW) The illumination device according to claim 29, wherein the body member is a sealed enclosure with conductors for electricity powering the at least one source of light passing through a wall of the enclosure by way of a gas tight seal.

38. (NEW) An illumination device comprising:

a body member;

at least two sources of light aligned along a longitudinal axis of, and lying within, the body member;

at least one transparent region of the body member through which light from at least one source of light passes upon energization of the at least one source of light;

a plurality of closely packed but non-adhering transparent optical particles lying within the body member and extending contiguously between each source of light and a side of the at least one transparent region which is directed towards an inside of the body member;

wherein the body member is a sealed enclosure with conductors for electricity, for powering each source of light, passing through a wall of the enclosure by way of a gas tight seal.

39. (NEW) An illumination device comprising:

a body member;

at least two sources of light aligned along a longitudinal axis of, and lying within, the body member;

at least one transparent region of the body member through which light from at least one source of light passes upon energization of the at least one source of light;

a plurality of closely packed but non-adhering transparent optical particles lying within the body member and extending contiguously between each source of light and a side of the at least one transparent region which is directed towards an inside of the body member; and

wherein an interior of the body member not occupied by the at least one source of light or the optical particles is filled with a gas or vapor maintained at a controlled pressure relative to ambient atmospheric pressure.